

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 31, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. THOMSON, made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany Joint Resolution S. 36.]

The Committee on Naval Affairs, to whom was referred the memorial of A. S. Baldwin, a lieutenant of the United States navy, have had the same under consideration, and report:

That Lieutenant Baldwin was placed on the retired list of the navy on leave-of-absence pay, on account of supposed physical disability, for the performance of his duties at sea. Mr. Baldwin was, it is true, for a time laboring under indisposition arising from exposure and hard duty in the exploring expedition under Captain Wilkes, and from a wound received at the blockade and capture of Vera Cruz. But from this he has entirely recovered, and has been placed on the active list of the navy by the Secretary of the Navy, and is now serving as first lieutenant and executive officer of the flag-ship *Lancaster*, on the Pacific station. He was appointed first lieutenant and executive officer of that ship because the laborious duties of the office would test to the utmost his ability to discharge his duties efficiently *afloat* as well as *ashore*. This now has been done, and after a year's hard service, during all of which time he has never lost one day from duty, a board of surgeons, ordered expressly for the purpose by the Navy Department on the 29th of March, 1859, reported: "That they consider that Lieutenant A. S. Baldwin is physically capable of performing his duties on shore and afloat, and this opinion is confirmed by the fact, that he has attended to all his duties on board this ship, since joining her, some ten months ago, except on one occasion for a few hours."

It was the design of the Navy Department in calling this officer into active service as first lieutenant of a flag-ship, that, if his physical ability should be found to warrant it, he should be permanently restored to that list. But the Secretary of the Navy now doubts the power of the President, under the act of January 16, 1857, to restore him without further legislative action, and thus to do a simple act of justice to a most meritorious officer, it has become necessary to adopt the resolution accompanying this report.

The character of Lieutenant Baldwin for professional accomplishments, high courage, and unblemished moral and social qualities has never been impeached, and the restoration to the service of such an officer is recommended by every consideration of regard for the good of the service as well as of justice to an individual.

The committee unanimously recommend the passage of the resolution.